

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/624,715	NORDSTROM, C. RICHARD	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Shelley Self	3725	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 1/28/05.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 6-12 and 19-32.
3. The drawings filed on 21 July 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____



DERRIS H. BANKS
 SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
 TECHNOLOGY CENTER 27
 Part of Paper No./Mail Date 20050330

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

The amendment filed on January 28, 2005 is sufficient to overcome the prior art reference.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

•Page 1 of the Specification, following the term, “*This is a divisional of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/986,287, filed May 18, 2001*” insert, --now Patent No. 6,668,880—

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6-11 and 19-32 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record does not disclose a bearing mechanism removably secured to the cutting head, wherein the bearing mechanism can be detached to allow the bearing mechanism/cartridge to be detached from the cutting head to facilitate replacement of the bearing mechanism/cartridge and drive shaft as set forth in claims 6, 19 and 30.

The prior art reference Kurelek discloses an implement for clearly brush and trees comprising a cutting head (20) having a frame (fig. 2) a motor (95), a drive shaft (96) coupled to said motor and a cutting disk (100) mounted on the drive shaft, the drive shaft is journaled in bearings (97, 98). Kurelek does not however discloses a removably secured bearing mechanism/cartridge or a drive shaft constructed to be uncoupled from the motor to facilitate replacement of the bearing mechanism/cartridge and drive shaft. Kurelek is silent to any uncoupling of the drive shaft or detachment of the bearing mechanism/cartridge.

Neither the prior art of record nor any combination thereof discloses the invention as claimed in claims 6, 19 and 32. Accordingly, the claims are allowable over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shelley Self whose telephone number is (571) 272-4524. The examiner can normally be reached Mon-Fri from 8:30am to 5:00pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's Supervisor, Derris Banks can be reached at (571) 272-4419. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306 for regular and After Final communications.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SSelf
March 30, 2005



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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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